

## Elliot Lilien

Elliot Lilien founded the fencing team at Concord-Carlisle High School (MA) in 1965 and coached there for twenty years. Those teams included future Olympians and national champions at one level or another in Doug Powell, David Donadio, Peter Sils, Andrew Goorno (U16 national champions), James O'Neill (NCAA champion), Caitlin Bilodeaux (Olympian, US national champion, NCAA champion), Peter Cox (Olympian, NCAA champion), and M.J. O'Neill (Olympian, US national champion, NCAA champion). His high school teams competed against high school and college teams successfully. They broke the Essex Catholic High School's (NJ, itself an incubator for future Olympians) long winning streak in the 1969-70 season, and would defeat them three times in all. Lilien would lead his CCHS team to winning streaks of 21 meets, 61 meets (eventually stopped by UPenn), and then 29 meets (started immediately after the UPenn contest).

From 1986 to 1993, Lilien was the head coach at Brown University, at the time a "club-varsity" team. Brown would win seven New England Championships (4 men, 3 women) under Lilien, and enjoy victories over Ohio State University, Rutgers University, the Air Force Academy, the University of North Carolina, Princeton University (women), and Stanford University. His favorite moment, because of the great disparity in resources and the differences in the atmospheres of the two teams, was when both his teams defeated Harvard University at Cambridge in 1991. Lilien later coached as an assistant at Harvard from 2001 to 2004.

In 1992, he founded (with the assistance of others) the Northeast Fencing Conference, which includes NCAA and non-NCAA teams. He did this because the NCAA rules limiting the number of meets and not counting bouts against non-NCAA teams appeared to threaten college fencing in New England. Lilien served as the conference commissioner twice, stepping away finally in 2013.

Lilien also ran a fencing camp for twenty years. The camp coaching staff regularly included other hall of fame coaches Joe Pechinsky, Marty Schneider, and Eric Sollee, among others.

In all phases of his career, Lilien has contributed significantly to the growth and strength of fencing. His CCHS teams carried rosters as large as 90, and his teams at Brown carried rosters as large as 70. The Northeast Fencing Conference would grow from an original 12 teams to include 24 teams representing as many as 400 athletes.